current financial year, State-wise; and

(b) the total cost be incurred in the introduction of the electronic system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Petrol retail outlets in Tamil Nadu

22. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of petrol retail outlets available in Tamil Nadu at present;

(b) whether Government propose to open some more petrol retail outlets in the State;

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this regard so far; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) As on March 31, 1989, there were 1379 retail outlets in operation in Tamil Nadu.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In addition to the existing facilities, the oil industry has proposed to set up, under its Annual Marketing Plans upto 1987-88, 79 retail outlets in the State.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Projects executed by NPCC

23. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state what are the details of the projects being executed by the National Project Construction Corporation in the country at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): A Statement giving the details of projects under execution by the National Projects Construction Corporation in the country is enclosed at Annexure [*See* Appendix CL, Annexure No. 2]

Representation from M/s. Mittal and Co. of Nepal for Devighat Hydro Electric Project

24. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from M/s. Mittal & Company of Nepal regarding payment of differences of labour wages for the work done by them at Devighat Hydro Electric Project; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b) M/s. Mittal & Co., Kathmandu (Nepal) were awarded the Contract for "Construction of Cross Drainage Works and Escape Channel" for the Devighat Hydroelectric Project, by the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC). The Contractor raised certain claims for reimbursement of increase in fair

wages. The claim of the Contractor was not tenable under the terms of the Contract and was, accordingly, rejected. As the Contractor asked for appointment of an Arbitrator to resolve the dispute, in terms of the contract a panel of Arbitrators was sent to the Contractor to select a Sole Arbitrator from the panel. However, the Contractor requested that the award, as and when made, in the dispute pending between another Contractor and the project may be made applicable to them also. On examination of their request from the legal angle, it was found that such a request could not be acceded to and the Contractor was informed accordingly by the NHPC. Thereafter, no reference asking for the appointment of the Sole Arbitrator has been received from the Contractor by the N.H.P.C.

Ban on the production of poisonous Pesticides

25. SHRI N.E. BALARAM : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a large scale and regular poisoning and deaths all over the country from aluminium phosphide and if so, what are the details thereof for the last three years, State-wise for the above pesticide and for all other registered pesticides; and

(b) whether in view of widespread damage production of such chemicals will be banned till suitable infrastructure for control is fully in operation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Aluminium Phosphide is used as a fumigant in storage of foodgrains and is registered for use under the provisions of Insecticides Act. Certain instances of death due to use of Aluminium Phosphide for suicide/homocide purpose have however been reported. As per the information available with the Deptt. of Agriculture, deaths due to pesticides poisoning reported from different states are as under:

State	Year	Total No. of poison-cases	Deaths
Gujarat	1986	6	6
Tamilnadu	1986	5	5
Punjab	1986-87	126	126
A.P.	1988	16	..
Kerala	1987	40	..

(b) The Registration Committee constituted under the Insecticides Act have imposed restrictions on its sale. Accordingly, its sale is permitted only to Govt. organisations like Warehousing Corp., Food Corporation of India etc. for use under strict supervision of experts whose expertise is approved by the Plant Protection Adviser to the Govt. of India. In view of the above regulations, it is not considered necessary to impose a ban at the present stage.

Observation of norms by pesticide manufacturers

26. SHRI N. E. BALA RAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether pesticide units are to be asked to observe norms on pesticide formulations which they have been flouting for the past several years as reported in the Economic Times of 1st April, 1989;

(b) if so, what corrective action has been taken so far against those disregarding the Government guidelines and reasons for not taking corrective action; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the pesticide manufacturers have been